

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

July 2014 – Week 4

Air Date: July 20 – July 26 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: THE FORTY-YEAR FEUD

JULY 1886 AND A FAMILY FEUD TURNS VIOLENT.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JULY 20, 1886. TIMPSON. REVEREND JAMES TRUITT IS READING HIS BIBLE FOR TOMORROW'S SERMON AS HIS WIFE ANSWERS THE DOOR...

SHOT IN THE HEAD, TRUITT IS KILLED INSTANTLY. HIS MURDERER IS BILL MITCHELL, THE SON OF OLD COONEY MITCHELL, HUNG TWELVE YEARS AGO ON TRUITT'S TESTIMONY ABOUT THEIR BLOODY FAMILY FEUD.

REVENGE COMPLETE, MITCHELL FLEES, NIMBLY AVOIDING CAPTURE FOR DECADES. FINALLY CAUGHT IN 1907, HE IS PUT ON TRIAL AND CONVICTED. AT AGE 62, MITCHELL IS SENTENCED TO 99 YEARS, SERVES TWO... THEN ESCAPES!

RUMOR SAYS HE DIED IN 1928, HIDING OUT IN ARIZONA WITH TEXAS RANGERS HOT ON HIS TRAIL.

A FAMILY FEUD LED TO BLOODSHED 128 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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C. L. Sonnichsen, "FEUDS," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/jgf01>), accessed July 10, 2014. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Worth Robert Miller, "SPRADLEY, ANDREW JACKSON," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fsp23>), accessed July 10, 2014. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Reba January James, "SHERIFF JOHN SPRADLEY'S 25 YEAR SEARCH FOR KILLER OF REV. JAMES MORGAN TRUITT," *Shelby County Historical Society Museum & Library* (<http://www.shelbycountytexashistory.org/spradleyssearch.htm>), accessed July 10, 2014.

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